

U.S. Application No.: 10/073,472  
AMENDMENT A

Attorney Docket No.: 2368.129

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A lift device according to Claim 37 2,  
wherein two slide bars (16a, 16b) are provided oriented parallel  
and bracketing the two levers (25a, 25b).

Claims 4-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A lift device according to Claim 37 17,  
~~thereby characterized, that~~ wherein a connecting device (42) is  
provided on the other side of the slide bar(s) (16a, 16b), which  
is ~~rigidly~~ connected with a spring tensioning device (41), upon  
which a pressure spring (18) is seated on one end and which on the  
other side is seated upon a spring abutment (40) rigidly connected  
with the guide bar (27b).

Claim 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A lift device according to Claim 37 2,  
wherein two lift bars (17a, 17b) are provided in parallel  
orientation and bracketing the two levers (25a, 25b).

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21. (Currently Amended) A lift ~~Lift~~ device according to Claim 37 2, wherein the slide bars (16a, 16b) are associated with rollers (22a, 22b) for horizontal guidance on suitable guide bars (27, 27a, 27b).
22. (Currently Amended) A lift ~~Lift~~ device according to Claim 21, wherein the rollers (22a, 22b) are mounted rotatably in the slide bars (16a, 16b).
23. (Currently Amended) A lift ~~Lift~~ device according to Claim 21, wherein the rollers are mounted rotatably in the guide bars.
24. (Currently Amended) A lift ~~Lift~~ device according to Claim 37 2, wherein the lift bars (17a, 17b) are provided with guide rollers (22a, 22b) for vertical guidance on suitable guide elements (13a, 13b).
25. (Currently Amended) A lift ~~Lift~~ device according to Claim 24, wherein the guide elements (13a, 13b) are connected ~~essentially~~ ~~rigidly~~ with the lift bars (17a, 17b).
26. (Currently Amended) A lift ~~Lift~~ device according to Claim 36 4, wherein slide blocks (15a, 15b) are provided for guiding the force transmission device (16a, 16b, 17a, 17b, 25a, 25b) in ~~the~~ a sideways direction.
27. (Withdrawn) Lift device according to Claim 1, wherein the force transmission device includes at least one pneumatic device (72, 73).

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28. (Withdrawn) Lift device according to Claim 1, wherein the force transmission device includes at least one hydraulic device.
29. (Withdrawn) Lift device according to Claim 1, wherein the force transmission device includes a linear motor.
30. (Currently Amended) A lift device according to Claim 36 ‡, wherein the force transmission device includes at least one ~~rotation~~ motor drive (35) and a conversion device for converting the rotational movement of the motor drive (35) into a horizontal linear movement.
31. (Currently Amended) A lift device according to Claim 30, wherein an eccentric disk or a crank disk (38) ~~or the like~~ is provided, which is drivable by a motor drive (35) and which is in operable association with one end (29a, 29b) of the lever (25a, 25b).
32. (Currently Amended) A lift device according to Claim 31, wherein the eccentric disk or the crank disk (38) ~~or the like~~ carries an eccentric pin, or a crank pin (38a) ~~or the like~~ eccentric to the drive axis of the motor drive (35), which engages in a linkage mount (37a) provided on the one side of a crank (20), wherein a pin (36) provided on the one side of the slide bar(s) (16a, 16b) engages in a linkage mount (37b) provided on the other side of the crank (20).
33. (Currently Amended) A lift device according to Claim 31, wherein the motor drive (35) is provided with a pressure or pull spring (18), of which the spring effect supports the start-up of

the motor drive (35) at least during lifting of the support device (2, 3B, 5).

34. (Withdrawn) Lift device according to Claim 33, wherein a connecting device (42) is provided on the other side of the slide bar(s) (16a, 16b), which is rigidly connected with a spring tensioning device (41), upon which a pressure spring (18) is seated on one end and which on the other side is seated upon a spring abutment (40) rigidly connected with the guide bar (27b).
35. (Currently Amended) A lift device according to Claim 36 1, wherein two force transmission devices (16a, 16b, 17a, 17b, 25a, 25b, 18, 20) are provided ~~in essentially identical form~~ in parallel arrangement to each other, which respectively carry segments of an outer roller track (2) or an inner roller track (3B) of the support device.
36. (New) A lift device for lifting and lowering a support device (2, 3B, 5) of a transport track segment of a transport device for work pieces, the device comprising:
  - a work piece carrier (58), wherein the work pieces are deposited on the work piece carrier;
  - a force producing device (35, 72, 73), wherein the force producing device produces a force for lifting or lowering the support device (2, 3B, 5);
  - a force transmission device, wherein the force transmission device transmit the force from the force producing device to the support device;wherein the force transmission device includes at least one lever (25a, 25b), wherein each lever includes:

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a first end (29a, 29b) is horizontally coupled to the force producing device (35, 72, 73) , the first end (29a, 29b) is horizontally displaceable guided, and

a second end (30a, 30b) coupled to the support device (2, 3B, 5) , the second end (30a, 30b) is guided for vertical displacement.

37. (New) A lift device according to Claim 36, wherein the first end (29a, 29b) is linked to at least one slide bar (16a, 16b) oriented in the horizontal direction, wherein the second end (30a, 30b) is linked to at least one lift bar (17a, 17b) parallel to the at least one slide bar (16a, 16b) .